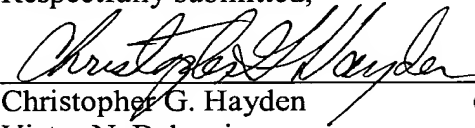


**REMARKS**

This supplemental response is in response to the Action mailed October 1, 1999. In a response dated Feb. 25, applicants amended certain claims. This amendment was believed to have been entered, though found by the Examiner to be non-responsive. The amendments to the claims are in format where the prior response was entered.

The claims pending in the above-referenced patent application, 33, 34, 36-38, 42, 43 and 45, which were deemed by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten. Applicants have amended those claims to place them in form for allowance, which is respectfully submitted herewith.

Date: September 9, 2003

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Christopher G. Hayden (Reg. No.) 44,750  
for Victor N. Balancia 31,231  
**PENNIE & EDMONDS** LLP  
1667 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 496-4400